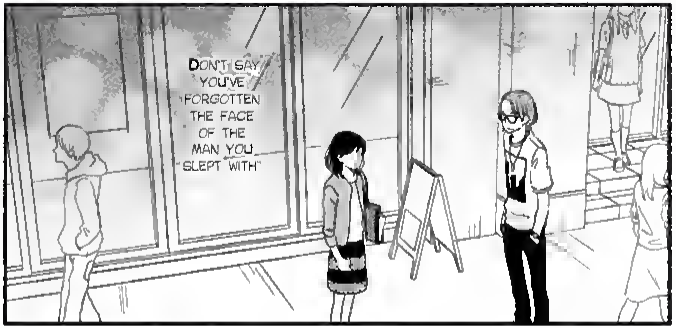
#5 | Breakthrough

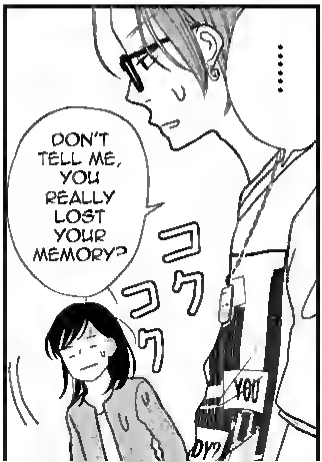

DON'T I SAY YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE FACE OF THE MAN YOU SLEPT WITH

ARE
YOU
HERE YOU ARE AGAIN, SAYING THINGS LIKE YOU FORGOT ME, WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS?
IT'S JUNYA. IGA JUNYA
WE HIT IT OFF AT THE BAR AND GOT EXCITED, Y'KNOW

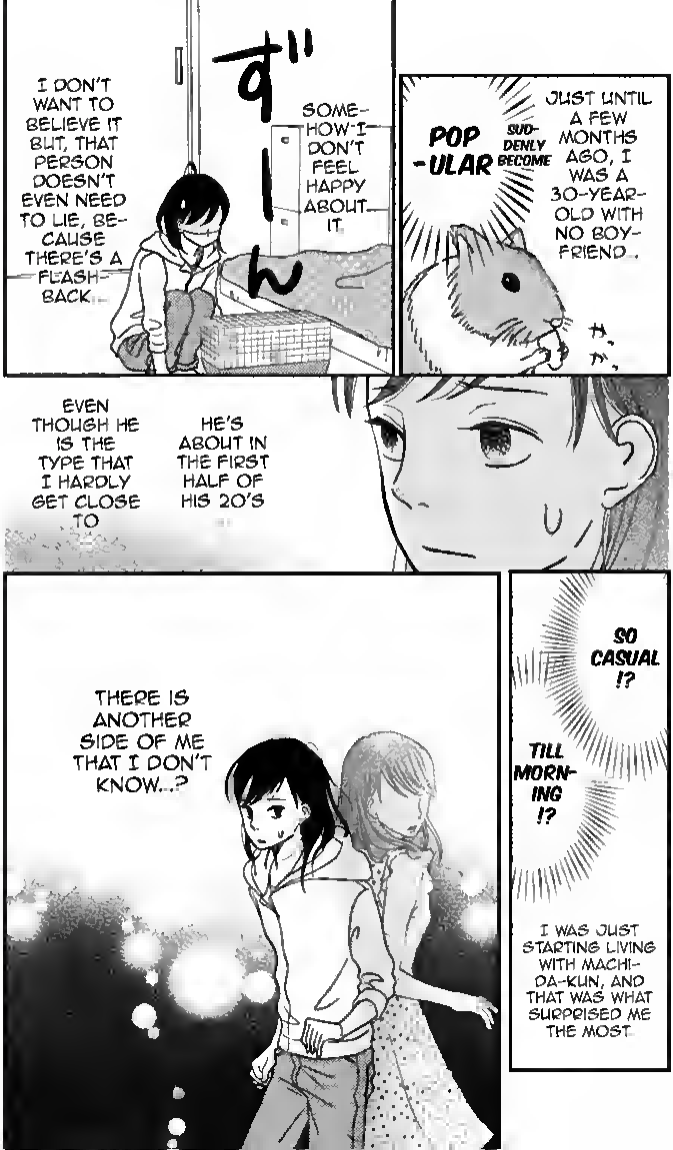
HMM ...
I'VE LOST MY MEMORY OF ABOUT TWO TO THREE MONTHS BEFORE NOW, SO I CAN'T RE-MEMBER ...

TILL MORN-ING ...
SFX HEART RACES
どきっ

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT A 30-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN ME HAD THAT KIND OF ADVENTURE!?
IT'S A LIE
がく


.....
DON'T TELL ME, YOU REALLY LOST YOUR MEMORY?
コクコク

JUST GO OUT WITH ME, SAYAKA -CHAN.
HONEST-LY, I REALLY WANTED TO MEET YOU AGAIN.
KISS
WHAT WHAT A WASTE
THEN IT'S FINE.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF YOU FORGOT EVERY-THING.
SHE RAN AWAY.
EH?
GYAAA
UNTIL NEXT TIME, OKAY?

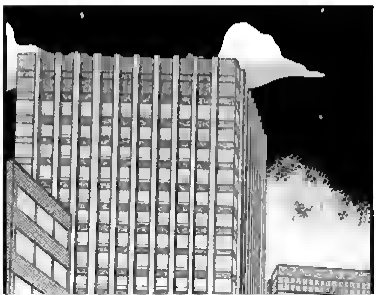

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT BUT, THAT PERSON DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO LIE, BECAUSE THERE'S A FLASHBACK...
SOMEHOW I DON'T FEEL HAPPY ABOUT IT...
ずーん
POP-ULAR
SUDDENLY BECOME
JUST UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, I WAS A 30-YEAR-OLD WITH NO BOYFRIEND...
か、か、
EVEN THOUGH HE IS THE TYPE THAT I HARDLY GET CLOSE TO
HE'S ABOUT IN THE FIRST HALF OF HIS 20'S
THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE OF ME THAT I DON'T KNOW...?
SO CASUAL!?
TILL MORNING!?
I WAS JUST STARTING LIVING WITH MACHIDA-KUN, AND THAT WAS WHAT SURPRISED ME THE MOST.

HOW ABOUT TRYING TO ASK HIM ...
WHAT ?
WAS I A "VIR -GIN" ?
I CAN'T AFTER ALL ...
NO NOTHI NG
WHAT?
SAYAKA
SAGI -SAWA -KUN
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK
THE MEETING PLACE WAS NEAR, SO I DECIDED TO DROP BY.
STARTING TOMOR- ROW, I'LL HAVE A BUSINESS TRIP IN OSAKA, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD TALK FOR A WHILE.
OKAY
I HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO HIM ABOUT DEFERRING THE REPLY

GEH!
SO SORRY
TODAY IT SEEMS LIKE I HAVE TO DO OVER-TIME
I SEE THEN, HOW ABOUT WE MEET PROPERLY AFTER MY BUSINESS TRIP?
OKAY, JUST TAKE YOUR TIME AND BE AT EASE
ぽん
WHO WAS THAT GUY JUST NOW?
HII
HOW DO YOU WHERE I WORK
EH THAT NIGHT WE TALKED ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS, YOU KNOW?
LIKE ABOUT YOUR LIVE-IN BOY-FRIEND
I WAS ALREADY WITH MACHIDA-KUN!?

CAN YOU CONSIDER GOING OUT WITH ME?
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?
I AM SERI-OUS
PLUS, LOOK AT THIS.
HMM.. I HAVE A PERSON I LOVE...
HEHH ?
BUT IF YOU COME TO KNOW ME, YOU'LL SURELY FORGET THAT PERSON.
WHAT'S THAT ?!
THIS IS JUST ONE OF MANY

I WAS THAT KIND OF AN EASY WOMAN
HOW ABOUT WE SHOW THESE TO YOUR LIVE-IN BOY-FRIEND?



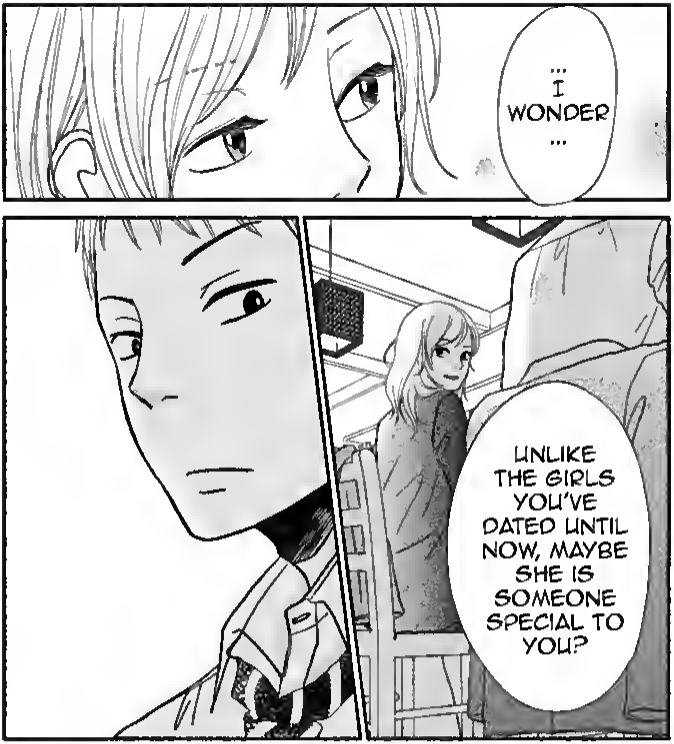
WHAT TO DO ...

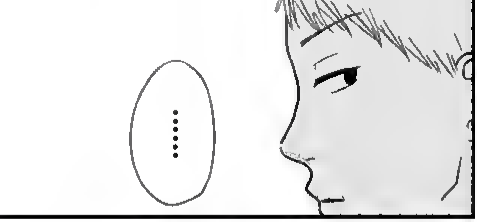
MACHIDA -KUN
IF YOU'RE GOING HOME, HOW ABOUT WE GO OUT FOR A DRINK?
PASS
スタスタ
WE'LL TALK ABOUT WORK. PLEASE DON'T REFUSE ME
ぐぐぐ……

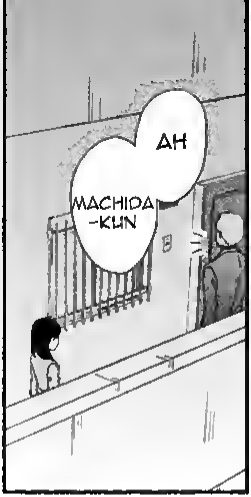
WHO IS THAT WOMAN WITH MACHIDA -SAN?
AHH... OGASAWARA -SAN OF THE COMPANY GROUP
THAT BEAUTIFUL PERSON?

I'LL GO. JUST MOVE YOUR HAND.
REALLY?

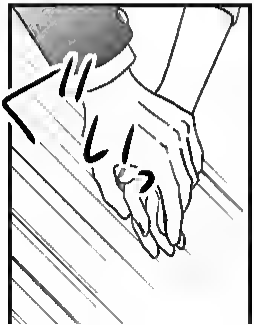
どんっ
THEY SEEM TO BE GOING OUT ...
IN THE FIRST PLACE WHAT'S WITH THE DELIVERY TIME? ALSO, THE SPECIFICATION IS STILL NOT FINALIZED YET!
ぐだぐだ
THIS IS NOT ABOUT WORK
IT'S ABOUT WORK.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT GIRL WHO LOST HER MEMORY?
EH, SHE'S STILL NOT RECOVERED?
PLUS, YOU CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH HER...
UNTIL NOW, YOU NEVER HAD A LAST LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR GIRLFRIENDS. IT'S HARD TO THINK THAT SHOUHEI CAN BE LIKE THIS.
I HAVE NO CHOICE, RIGHT?
IT WAS MY FAULT SHE HIT HER HEAD


...
I
WONDER
...
UNLIKE THE GIRLS YOU'VE DATED UNTIL NOW, MAYBE SHE IS SOMEONE SPECIAL TO YOU?





IF MACHIDA -KUN WERE TO SEE THAT PHOTO, WHAT WOULD HE ...



"WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MINAMI -SAN?"
WAIT
FOR THE TIME BEING, JUST GO INSIDE FIRST THEN REMOVE IT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MINAMI -SAN?
MACHIDA -KUN?
.....
I CAN'T OPEN MY EYES
CONTACT LENS MOVE AWAY

I THINK I CAN AT LEAST WALK BY MYSELF.
EH... EXCUSE ME...
THIS IS BAD. SEEMS LIKE MY HAND IS SWEATY IT'S LIKE HOLDING HANDS WITH A MAN OR FOLK DANCING AT MIDDLE SCHOOL... THOUGH THEY ARE SIMILAR...
YOU SAY THAT, BUT JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO YOU WERE NEARLY RUN OVER BY A BIKE, RIGHT?
I'M SORRY.

YESTERDAY IS THE FIRST TIME I GOT THESE
THAT'S AH RIGHT. LOOK AT THESE
CABARET CLUB'S WOMEN RECRUITMENT

NURSING CARE...?
WELL THIS IS ALSO ONE KIND OF A KINDNESS.
うぅん
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO CONSCIOUS!!

THANKS TO MACHIDA-KUN
...YOUR FIRST TIME...

THAT MAGAZINE IS FOR 50'S, YOU KNOW?
うぅん

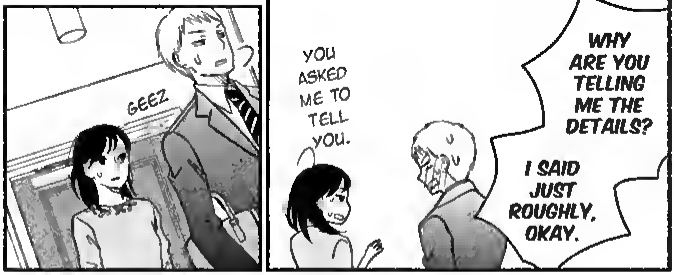
YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR GLASSES AND HAIR
HOW ABOUT THIS?
WHY DO YOU ASK ME?

MINE WHEN I WAS STUDENT
FIRST THING FOR APPEARANCE, IT SHOULD BE A SKIRT
HAA
NO ENERGY
WHICH COUNTRY'S NATIONAL COSTUME IS THAT?
HA?

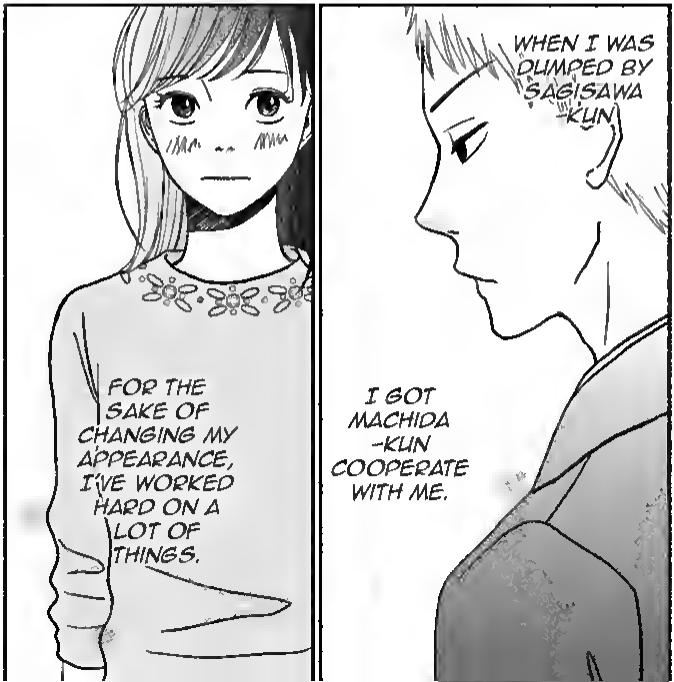
IF I DID THIS A LITTLE EARLIER,
WOULD I HAVE BEEN SEEN AS A WOMAN ...?
BUT IF YOU DIDN'T GET DUMPED, OR NOTHING REALLY HAPPENED, I DON'T THINK MINAMI-SAN WOULD HAVE CHANGED THIS MUCH
.....
WELL, THE NEXT GUY SURELY WILL LOOK AT YOU PROPERLY AS A WOMAN, FOR SURE.
EH?
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M LOOKING AT MINAMI -SAN RIGHT NOW AS A WOMAN.

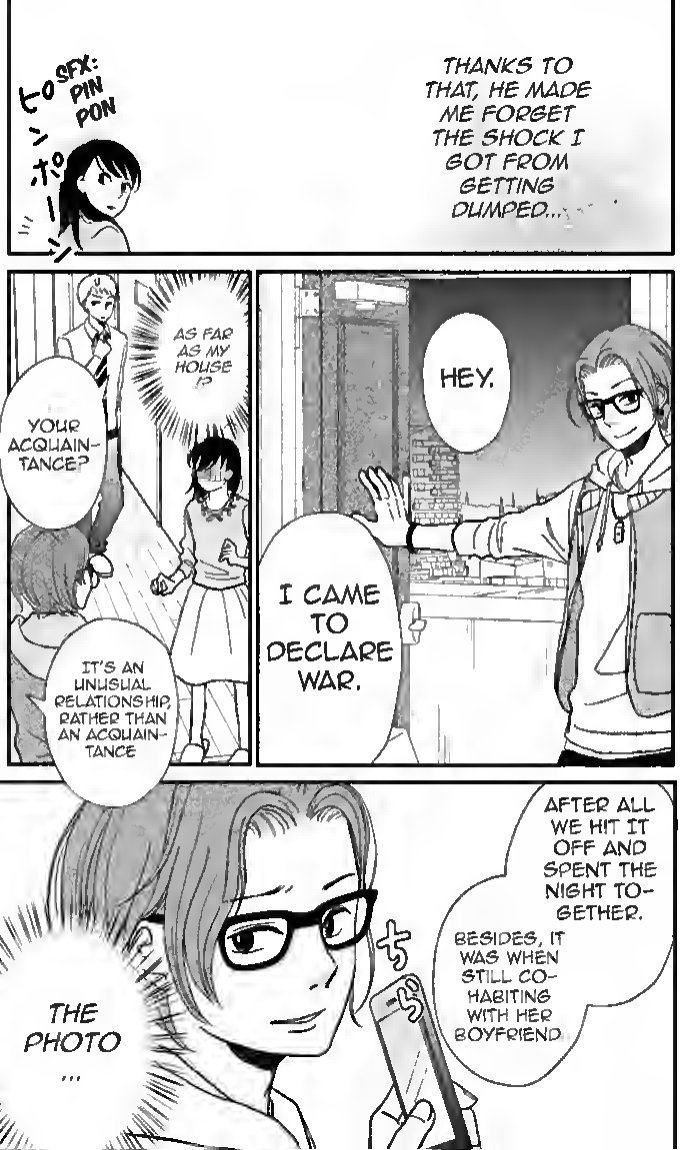
WHAT ...?
AHH IT'S A JOKE? A JOKE, RIGHT?
HAAA !?
NO NO THEY ARE MY TRUE FEEL-INGS
...WHAT.. YOU'RE BLUSH-ING?
WHAT WAS THAT?
JUST FROM HOLDING HANDS?
HAA

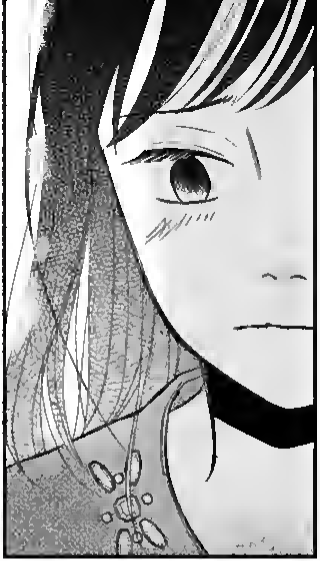
WHEN YOU RECALL SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO REPORT TO ME SO I CAN SEE HOW FAR YOU HAVE REMEMBERED.
BECAUSE I, TOO, HAVE TO TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT BASED ON, FOR EXAMPLE, MENTAL PREPAREDNESS AND ATTITUDE.
...YOU PROBABLY REMEMBERED SOMETHING?
あ治た…
MENTAL PREPARED-NESS ...?
WELL I GUESS ...
HMM... ON MY WAY BACK HOME FROM WORK, I HAD PROBLEMS WITH MY CONTACT LENS, AND WHEN I WAS TROUBLED BY IT, I MET MACHIDA-KUN, YOU PULLED MY HAND ALONG...
ごにょごにょ
AND YOU SAID "I'M LOOKING AT MINAMI-SAN RIGHT NOW AS A WOMAN"



THAT'S RIGHT. I REMEMBER IT


WHEN I WAS DUMPED BY SAGISAWA -KUN
I GOT MACHIDA -KUN COOPERATE WITH ME.
FOR THE SAKE OF CHANGING MY APPEARANCE, I'VE WORKED HARD ON A LOT OF THINGS.


SFX: PIN PON
THANKS TO THAT, HE MADE ME FORGET THE SHOCK I GOT FROM GETTING DUMPED...
HEY.
I CAME TO DECLARE WAR.
AS FAR AS MY HOUSE I?
YOUR ACQUAINTANCE?
IT'S AN UNUSUAL RELATIONSHIP, RATHER THAN AN ACQUAINTANCE
AFTER ALL WE HIT IT OFF AND SPENT THE NIGHT TOGETHER.
BESIDES, IT WAS WHEN STILL COHABITING WITH HER BOYFRIEND
THE PHOTO ...

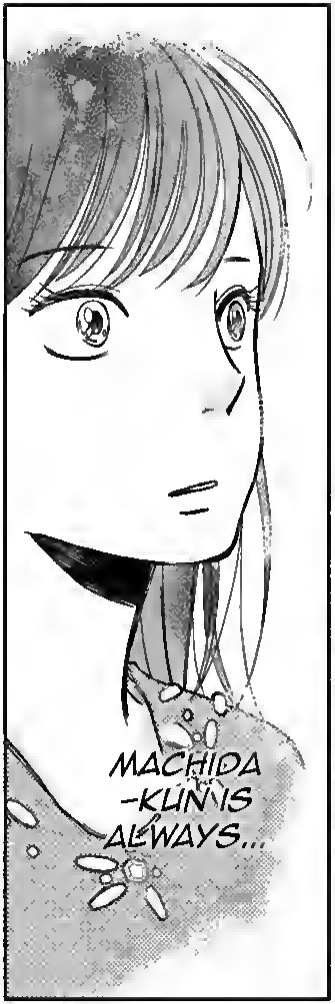


I WANT TO SAY IT'S A LIE...

I WANT TO SAY THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT...

BUT I REALLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE ME FROM THE PAST MONTH.

THAT'S A LIE, RIGHT?
EHH.. HMMM. ON MY WAY BACK FROM COMPANY, HE CALLED ME OUT.
WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS MAN?
EH?
YOU WANT ME TO CALL POLICE?
IS THIS DATING FRAUD OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT?
DO YOU REALLY THINK A STUBBORN VIRGIN WOMAN WHO HAD AN UNREQUITED LOVE FOR 10 YEARS COULD PLAY AROUND WITH A CASU-AL-TYPE OF MAN JUST AFTER SHE GOT DEFLOW-ERED?
ALSO YOU! EVEN IF YOU LOST YOUR MEMORY, DON'T BELIEVE EV-ERYTHING PEOPLE SAY!


MACHIDA-KUN IS ALWAYS...

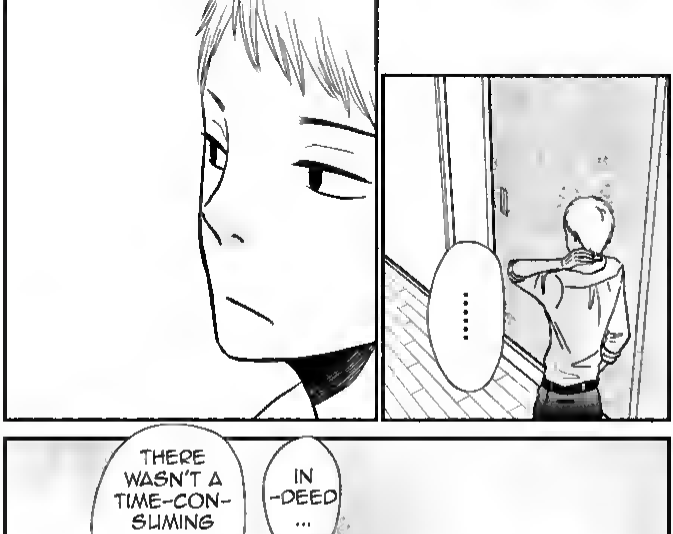
BE-SIDES
I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU ARE THAT KIND OF PERSON WHO CAN DO THAT.

EVEN SO, I WONDER WHY WAS I MOVED BY HIM?
ガシ
"THE "YOU" IN THIS WHOLE MONTH IS MORE HONEST THAN YOU ARE NOW AND IT WAS CUTE"
DOING THINGS LIKE THAT ..
"HOW ABOUT YOU ENTER THE RING?"
TELLING ME THINGS AS IF IT'S TROUBLE-SOME ...
"WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MAKE HIM LOVE YOU?"

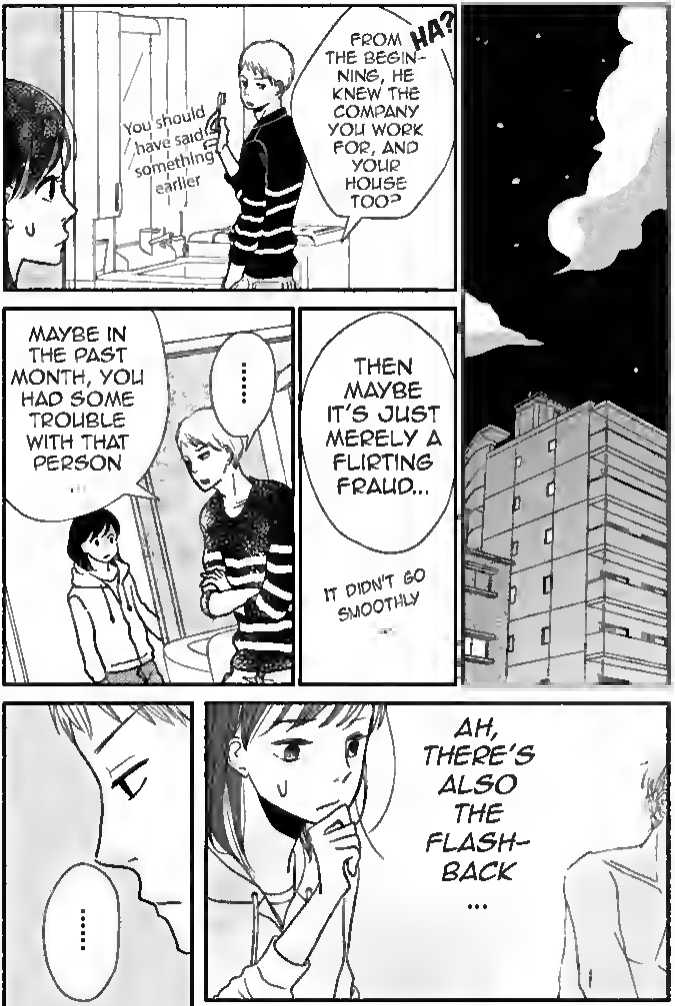
PLEASE SHOW ME THAT PHOTO.
AND OTHER PHOTOS TOO
EH?
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU?
IF I SHOW IT IN FRONT OF YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
IT'S FINE.
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE.
I HAVE NO CONFI-DENCE WITH THE ONE -MONTH ME,
BUT I BELIEVE IN MACHIDA -KUN'S WORDS.

I WANT TO BELIEVE.
ばっ
WELL DON'T RUSH.
NEXT TIME, WE SHOULD TAKE OUR TIME
SFX CHUCKLE
HEY WAIT!
WHAT ABOUT THE PHOTO?
非常口
SFX STEP STEP

ばいっ
YOU DID WELL.
IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO SHOW THE PHOTO, THAT MEANS HE LIED, RIGHT?


.....
IN-DEED ...
THERE WASN'T A TIME-CONSUMING PERSON UNTIL NOW ...

WELL THEN ...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
TOTALLY BACK-FIRED ON ME ...


You should have said something earlier
FROM THE BEGINNING, HE KNEW THE COMPANY YOU WORK FOR, AND YOUR HOUSE TOO?
HA?
MAYBE IN THE PAST MONTH, YOU HAD SOME TROUBLE WITH THAT PERSON
...
THEN MAYBE IT'S JUST MERELY A FLIRTING FRAUD...
IT DIDN'T GO SMOOTHLY
AH, THERE'S ALSO THE FLASH-BACK
...

IT'D BE HASSLE IF THE MATTER THAT WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER GET EXPOSED IN THE COMPANY
IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, THE ONLY WAY IS THAT YOU SHOULD HURRY UP REMEMBER EVERYTHING.
EH?
LIKE JUST NOW, YOU'LL START REMEMBER WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER THE SAME SITUATION, RIGHT?
ぐいっ
THEN ...
LET'S HURRY UP.

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